

**State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities**  
**Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b**  
**Minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2012**  
NH Department of Education  
Room 15  
**4:30pm - 6:30 pm**

**In attendance:** Mike Pinard, Maureen Tracey, Joan Holleran, Kerri Lynn Kimner, Bonnie Dunham, Vice-Chair, Gil Oriol, Richard Cohen, Sarah Cooley, Michelle Rosado, Candace Cole-McCrea, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Renea Sparks.

**Guests:** Nick McIntrye, Adrienne Evans, Santina Thibedeau.

**Agenda Item I:** Welcome, Introductions

- Bonnie Dunham welcomed members and guests at 4:40pm. She asked for introductions from members and guests.

**Agenda Item II:** Approval of April Minutes

- Approval of April minutes: Richard Cohen made a motion to accept the April minutes and Candace Cole-McCrea seconded the motion. All in favor with two abstentions.
- A note regarding appointment of Catherine Meister for membership. It was agreed to nominate Catherine for membership, however, as she is DHHS staff, her nomination will come from the Commissioner of DHHS, and the appointment will proceed from there.

**Agenda item III:** Announcements –

- Candace Cole-McCrea reported that parents on the IOD leadership list serve have complaints. It was asked if we should invite them to a future meeting.
- Maureen Tracey: She announced the viewing of the recent movie;  
  
“Who cares about Kelsey”. Producer, Dan Habib is willing to show the movie to SAC. The movie runs for an hour and ten minutes. Dick Cohen adds the movie is very compelling in a student with significant behavior issues at the high school level. Bonnie Dunham suggested it be promoted to SAC members and guests. Red River Theatre in Concord has it open to the public between May 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> for viewing. Check on [www.drc.org](http://www.drc.org) for posters and brochures.
- Joan Holleran was asked by OSEP to attend a conference. She has been asked to bring a student representative. She has asked a 17 year old student to attend and he has agreed. He is speaking with a guidance counselor at the conference and will be speaking to many across the country.
- Dick Cohen brought up use of seclusion rooms and could SAC discuss it further. Maureen adds that they are used with students in a younger grades, not so much with high schoolers. Candace reports

that this is the first state to not use suspensions. She would like to see mentoring etc, instead of seclusion.

- Bonnie will be attending the “State Family Support Conference” this weekend. NHDOE takes part in a panel for this conference as well. Bonnie offers to bring brochure materials to conference for others not able to attend.

**Agenda IV:** Public comment: none

**Agenda V:** New and Old business: none

**Agenda VI:** Updates: None

**Agenda VII:** Bureau Updates: Santina Thibedeau

- The movie “Who cares about Kelsey” (mentioned above) was partially funded by The Bureau of Special Education. Dan Habib will be making others films for training purposes. He will be looking at mental health issues for current teachers, case managers etc.
- Santina announced *Mary Steady* as the Bureau’s new consultant.
- Santina reviewed the process of the APH (American Printing House) count for print disabled and blind students. This years’ count has 211 students who qualify. Each student who qualifies helps in bringing in more dollars/credits to the state. On a national level, Adrienne Shoemaker, a teacher of the visually impaired from the Concord School District has been chosen as the 2012 APH scholar. Dick Cohen asked if all 211 students had IEPs? To clarify that question, they do not have to have IEPs but can have a 504 plan which still qualifies for the APH count.

**Agenda Item VIII:** Subcommittee reports;

- *Membership:* There are still vacancies. Maureen Tracey had asked Adrienne Evans, a parent of a 6yr old son from Concord to attend as she is interested in membership. Bonnie made a motion to send a letter of recommendation to the governor’s office. Kerri Lynn seconded the motion. All in favor. The vote was unanimous.
- *Legislation:* Bonnie reviewed the legislative handout and rule making. Santina reviewed the public meetings that the Department held on rule making. A stakeholder group was also formed by Senator Nancy Stiles. Bonnie commented that other states have not done what NH has done for getting public input. Bonnie encourages any members to contact your representative to voice your opinion.
- *CHINS:* Gil Oriol reports that he received the data on cases that were open in 2011. Out of the children who had CHINS, 25 % were coded. In larger cities, the number rises to 35 %. They now have concrete data, but how is it going to be used. The committee will move forward. Santina asked for the data to not be reported out in percentages. There were 452 students who had CHINS, 109 were coded (IEPs only). The base number is 50 students. There is greater reluctance for parents to have students coded. There was discussion around this. Renea would like to see what other special education administrators go through. With data, she suggested to do a letter to send to special education

administrators. Maureen reviewed what a student went through when he/she had a CHINS appointed. Santina reviewed other views of CHINS. How do we keep troubled kids separate from coded students. Santina reviewed the House of Correction legislation. Bonnie would like to see a House of Correction representative talk about students in the system. Bonnie also asked Gil if he could report out findings to SAC members at the June meeting. Renea would be willing to survey administrators at the NHASEA August academy.

- *SAC Liaisons*: Sue Marcotte-Jenkins is the SAC liaison to ICC (Interagency Coordination Council). Sue reviewed what the ICC is and the early childhood advisory council's work. She also spoke on cost share for ESS (Early Supports and Services) and reviewed the sheet that she handed out.

**Agenda Item IX:** Public comment: none

**Agenda Item X:** June meeting planning:

- Work at organizing Annual SAC Report; what have we accomplished, what are some unmet needs, what we have done.
- Renea suggests starting with subcommittee reports at the June meeting.
- Bonnie reviewed the public forums of years ago with a specific topic. Should we bring those back. Think of ways SAC can better engage the public.
- Plan for SAC Retreat at the June meeting. Focus on key issues.
- Members, please bring your calendars for the June meeting.
- Maureen asked about viewing the movie (Who cares about Kelsey) will look at fall dates.

**Agenda Item XI:** Adjournment

- Kerri Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Renea seconded. All in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.